

SECRET

MHQ-2057

24 May 1982

3 D/FBIS
 2 DD/FBIS
 1 C/E&PS
 C/LRB
 CMO
 C/AG
 4 C/PROD
 C/OPS
 5 C/ADMIN
 201 FILE
 6 EXEC. REG.

[Redacted] Chief
 Hong Kong Bureau, FBIS

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Dear Sue:

Subj: Fifth Staff Position
 Ref: FBIS/Hong Kong 87016, same subj

No fair! You ask Headquarters if you can have another staff position; then you ask us to justify it for you.

It's impossible to tell from your cable how you actually put the request for the extra Staff position to the Consulate General. If you presented your arguments in the order in which they appear in your cable you may have stepped off on your weakest foot.

Using Production Group's recruiting problems to justify a fifth staffer sounds suspiciously like trying to transfer routine Headquarters work to the field--an arguable proposition from many points of view, not least of which is the undesirability of taking dollars out of the U.S. economy and spending them overseas. Any Prod requirements for current information should be folded into your normal coverage. They thus become Hong Kong Bureau requirements. If Prod needs help it's because Hong Kong can't do the full current collection mission properly. At least, that's the way I'd look at it.

In other words, you must justify your staffing request on the basis of what the bureau needs to fulfill its mission. You can cite your file growth over the years, the enormous increase of Mainland sources the bureau is expected to process and the other added coverage such as regional voice, TV, [Redacted] You can also point to the non-Staff buildup which has and is taking place in Hong Kong, the growth of requirements and the file increases that you anticipate, the need for speed and accuracy, and the need to keep American control over the output at all times.

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Enclosed is a chart showing the file volumes of the other bureaus. Hong Kong is operating at a higher file volume than our bureaus with five or six American staff. We added another American position at both Nicosia and Panama this past year and their file volumes are lower than yours. Admittedly they have more crisis and "flash" coverage than Hong Kong, and more short items, but that is where your volume figures ought to count. Five Americans represent a bare minimum at which a bureau

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can be expected to handle the coverage and ensure the accuracy of a file the size of Hong Kong's, manning shifts and accommodating to rotations and routine sick and annual leave while keeping an American on duty.

If you are forced to reduce staff in the face of a growing file (which in effect is what the Consul General is telling you, although he probably doesn't recognize it) you will be forced to reexamine the bureau's output and perhaps cut back and transfer some work to Washington, with attendant delays and so on. This argument ought to rattle the Political Section and may drum up some support in that quarter.

Programmatically (there's some bureaucratic doubletalk for you) we have you penciled in for another associate editor in FY-83 and an extra Staff officer in FY-84, but I think you ought to press on with your request now when Trowbridge is on the brink of leaving and you will be breaking in a green staff. Adding another associate would give you as many foreigners to cover shifts as Americans. That is undesirable in our view from the standpoint of file integrity.

Last, but not least, China is still the number two collection priority after the USSR! Good luck with your next pitch.

All portions of this document are classified SECRET.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Chief, Operations Group

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Enclosure
As stated

FBIS/Ops, [Redacted] (21May82)

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OPERATIONS GROUP FILE

ZVA - Comm. Planning

To : Acting Chief, Daily Reporting Division

From: Chief, Communications Center/DRD

Subj: Semi-Annual traffic reports (14-20 March, 1982)

(wordage comparison
with
18-24 Oct., 1981)

U. S. Staff
 (Bureau)

	(daily wordage)	(daily messages)	(average groups)		
16 London	88,214	240.6	367	+	5,473
4 Okinawa	32,298	102	317	-	2,303
7 Bangkok	<u>25,910</u>	74	350	+	3,810
4 Hong Kong	<u>21,476</u>	34.7	619	+	8,949
5 Vienna	<u>18,401</u>	47	391	-	3,002
Seoul	16,491	52	317	-	3,057
5 Panama	<u>16,488</u>	49	336	+	3,270
6 Nicosia	<u>14,920</u>	45	331	-	10,733
5 Gulf	<u>14,883</u>	38	392	+	6,286
6 Tel Aviv	13,020	49	266	+	2,124
Paraguay	9,070	33.7	269	+	1,419
Abidjan	7,906	21	376	+	1,693
Key West	6,224	17	366	+	3,124
Jordan	6,163	27	228	-	3,844
	2,709	7.8	347	-	STAT
(totals)	(294,173)	(837.8)	(351)	(+)	13,149)
(Oct 81)	(281,024)	(843)	(333)		
(Mar 81)	(274,856)	(799)	(343)		
(Oct 80)	(278,417)	(855)	(326)		